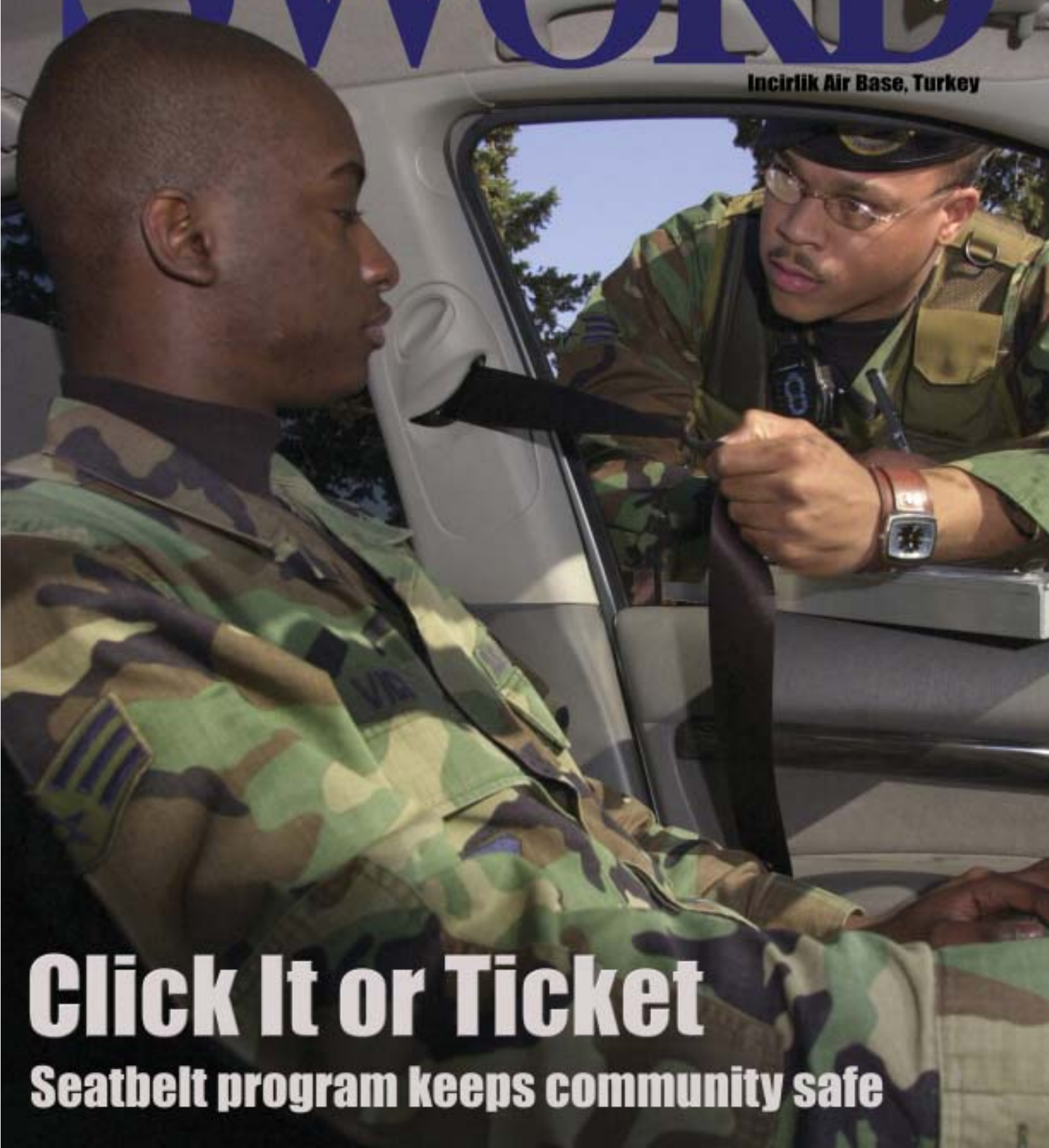


TIP OF THE

Jan. 23, 2004

SWORD

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey



Click It or Ticket

Seatbelt program keeps community safe

TIP OF THE SWORD

Volume 33 ♦ Number 3 ♦
http://source/39ABG_PA/html/tos.html



Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Miranda
Staff Sgt. Melanie Parrish, airman leadership school flight instructor, reviews notes for Senior Airman Brandon Bender, 39th Communications Squadron network infrastructure technician. Sergeant Parrish recently earned a U.S. Air Forces in Europe award. For related story, see Page 5.

NEWS

Money matters: Tax center opens to public Feb. 3 3

Top performers: Base shines during no-notice SAV 3

Dog days: Leaders urge community to control their pets 5

Better safe than sorry: Base Click It

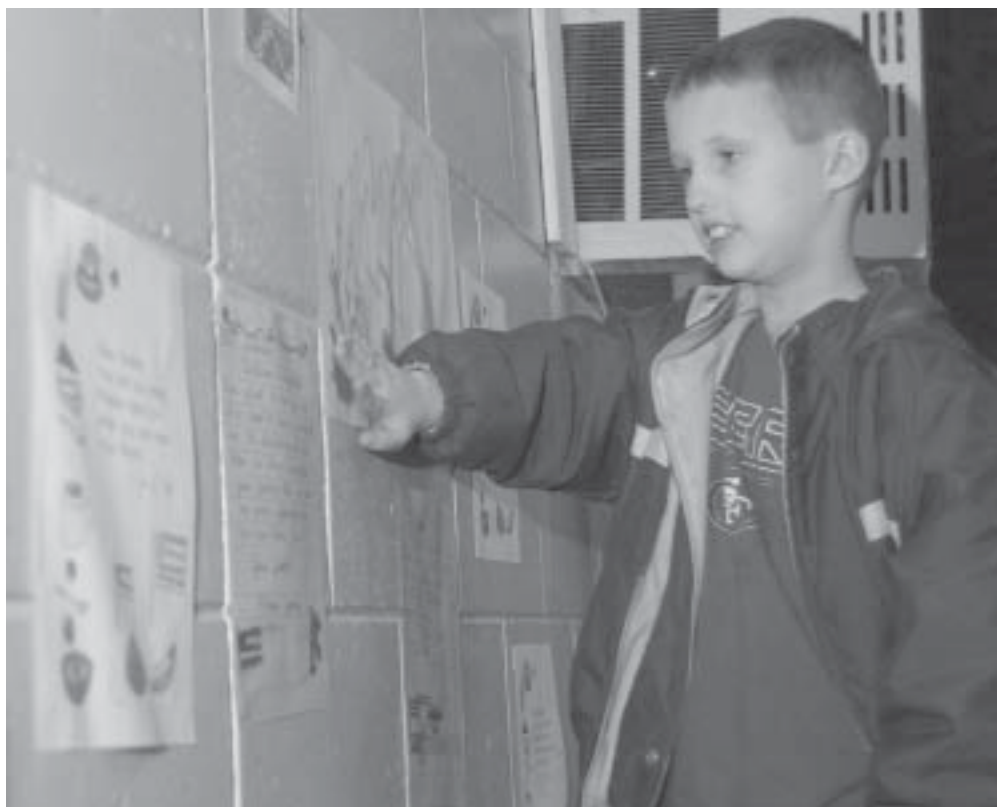


Photo by Airman 1st Class Joseph Thompson

Kent Ashurst, 9, tapes up posters to spruce up the temporary terminal for U.S. soldiers traveling home from Iraq. See related story, Page 6.

or Ticket program keeps people safe 5

Interior decorating: Students spruce up hangar for soldiers 6

SPORTS

HS competition: Hodjas sweep Ankara Trojans in B-ball and wrestling tournament 7

EDITORIAL

Not just a test: Military exercises serve a higher purpose 8

ASK MEHMET

Straight flush: Turkish toilets deciphered 9

COMMUNITY

The Incirlik Guide 10

Your Turn: How will you spend your tax return? 11

Warrior of the Week 12

At the Movies 12

On the cover:

Senior Airman Takuya Tyree, 39th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, explains the base seatbelt policy to Senior Airman Anthony Vick, 39th SFS reports and analysis technician. See related article, Page 5. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Joseph Thompson)

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Base tax center offers assistance Feb. 3

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles

39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

The 39th Air Base Group tax office opens Feb. 3 to assist the Incirlik community.

The center offers free tax-related assistance to servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians through May. Internal Revenue Service-trained tax volunteers prepare federal and state returns. The center doesn't file business returns, except for home day care businesses.

The center, located in Building 869 beside the auto hobby shop, opens Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and prepares returns on an appointment-only basis. Before Feb. 2, people should call 6-6800 to schedule an appointment and 6-2040 after that time.

While the average return can be accomplished in about 15 minutes, the key to a quick visit is preparation.

"If people bring the required documents (see boxed list), then the process will move much quicker," said Staff Sgt. James Hodge, tax center NCO in charge.

W-2s are now available for reservists, guardsmen, military retirees and Department of Defense civilians. They will be posted online for active-duty military people no later than Monday. People can print out their form by going to MyPay Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

Along with W-2s, people should remember to bring proof of their Advance Child Tax Credit, the advance payment of \$400 per eligible child the Internal Revenue Service mailed out in the fall.

"The payment will be deducted from your 2004 tax return," said

People should bring the following documents to appointments:

- ◆ Department of Defense identification
- ◆ Wage and Earning Statement (W-2, W-2G, 1099-R)
- ◆ Unemployment Compensation (1099G)
- ◆ Bank interest statements (Form 1099-Int)
- ◆ A copy of 2002 federal and state returns (if available)
- ◆ Social security card for taxpayer, spouse and dependents
- ◆ Voided check (if expecting a refund)
- ◆ Birthdates for taxpayer, spouse and dependents
- ◆ Power of Attorney (married filing jointly) or IRS Form 2848
- ◆ Other relevant information (ex. day care costs)
- ◆ Processing datasheet (on the Source under Legal Office)



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore

Senior Master Sgt. Don Dufner, 39th Air Base Group Manpower and Organization chief and tax volunteer, gets a head start on his taxes.

Machelle Harrell, tax center program manager.

The Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 should help ease the burden of that deduction. The new law provides a number of tax benefits to servicemembers and their families, some of which are retroactive.

For example, under the Homeowner's Assistance Program, military people are reimbursed for declines in home values due to base closures or realignments.

The act also affects capital gains on home sales. Since 1997, people could exclude up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 for married couples) of gain from the sale of a home if they resided in the home for two of the five years preceding the sale. Servicemembers and foreign service officers can now suspend the "two of five" rule for up to 10 years because of military or foreign service duty.

People can discuss these and other benefits with their adviser.

The impact of last spring's voluntary dependent evacuation may also raise some questions. For instance, if people received unemployment while away, that unemployment is taxable.

"You need to obtain a 1099G from the state that paid the unemployment," Ms. Harrell said.

For more tax information, people can log onto the Internal Revenue Service Web site at www.irs.gov and download state forms, ask questions and check tax return status; or call the IRS at (800) 829-1040.

Incirlik excels during no-notice Staff Assistance Visit

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles

39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

Incirlik excelled Tuesday through Thursday during a no-notice U.S. Air Forces in Europe surety staff assistance visit.

The SAV's purpose was to perform a follow-up examination of the findings from September's surety inspection.

"The team checked on the areas where we came up short in September," said Maj. Robert McNease, 39th Air Base Group exercise evaluation team chief. "They wanted to ensure we

were improving in our weaker areas."

The six-man team focused on two areas: technical operations and emergency response, but also looked at readiness, plans and programs, and the command post.

Key players during the SAV were 39th Civil Engineer Squadron, 39th Maintenance Squadron, 39th Security Forces Squadron and 39th Medical Squadron.

"Overall, what they found impressed them," Major McNease said. "Our enthusiasm, hard work and technical knowledge impressed the team."

In his report, the USAFE team chief wrote, "The 39th ABG can be proud of the progress made to date in addressing issues from the last surety inspection."

Although the report was positive, "no evaluation is flawless," Major McNease said. "The SAV proved no exception, but the discrepancies they pointed out were minor.

"The way to improve for the next visit is through readiness exercises," he added. "We need to make the scenarios more challenging, critically assess our performance, fix the deficiencies and do the exercises again."



Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Miranda

Staff Sgt. Melanie Parrish, airman leadership school flight instructor, inspects Senior Airman Montoya Goodloe, 39th Mission Support Squadron personnel specialist, Jan. 15 during an open ranks inspection at the school.

Sergeant earns USAFE Award

By 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Culbertson
39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

An Incirlik sergeant recently proved she has what it takes to instruct future NCOs.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe selected Staff Sgt. Melanie Parrish as the 2003 USAFE Flight Instructor of the Year. She will now compete at the Air Force level.

As a flight instructor at Incirlik's Airman Leadership School, Sergeant Parrish instructs more than 155 senior airmen annually on methods of communication and leadership.

"It is a great feeling to know that I play a major role in the development of our enlisted corps," Sergeant Parrish said. "I learn just as much from them as they learn from me."

"This award clearly defines Sergeant Parrish as a dynamic flight instructor, mentor, leader and most of all, outstanding performer," said Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Carter, airman leadership school flight chief.

No matter how many classes she teaches, Sergeant Parrish said graduation is always particularly poignant. She watches students walk across the stage to receive their certificate, she is struck by the fact that she had an impact, "something to do with helping each person reach their full potential."



IN BRIEF

Water restriction

People need to limit their water usage Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. due to construction activity at the base water treatment plant, water storage tanks and base supply warehouse. Water usage should be restricted to drinking, cooking, cleaning and bathing. Water service won't be interrupted unless required to maintain an adequate supply for firefighting capability.

NCO retraining program

The voluntary phase of the fiscal 2004 NCO retraining program runs through Feb. 23. The program pulls NCOs from overage career fields to those with shortages. If needed, an involuntary phase will go from March 8 to April 26. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Gloria Milner, military personnel flight NCO in charge of personnel employments, at 6-3113.

AFN publicity

Command-sponsored activities, official and private organizations, are eligible to advertise via American Forces Network Incirlik. To request coverage e-mail afni@incirlik.af.mil or call 6-3530.

Dormitory maintenance

All dormitory maintenance requirements should be reported to the central dormitory management office. The CDM will contact the civil engineer squadron and contact the requester to confirm scheduled repair date and time. For more information, call 6-6232.

Office machine repair

The base maintenance contract no longer covers office machine repair. OMR is now safe maintenance and only repairs safes, including combination changes. For more information, call Larry Daugherty, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron safe maintenance supervisor, at 6-7008.

MyPay.com

The Web site www.mypay.com is not the official Defense Financing and Accounting Service site. Do not enter personal information at this site. The official DFAS site is located at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>.

Tattoo taboos



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III

Senior Airman Corey Parrish, 39th Communications Squadron graphic artist, gets a tattoo in the Alley. Tattoos or brands that are obscene or advocate sexual, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination are prohibited in and out of uniform. Excessive brands or tattoos will not be exposed or visible while in uniform. Excessive is defined as any tattoo or brand that exceeds one-quarter of an exposed body part. For more information, reference Air Force Instruction 36-2903 or talk to a first sergeant.

Base vet emphasizes pet policies

Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips
39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

It's an understatement to say sometimes man's best friend seems to have a mind of his own, and his antics can get his owner in hot water.

Case in point, one such four-legged creature recently barreled out to greet two frightened neighbors on an evening stroll.

Even though a dog was trying his best to prove himself as the neighborhood welcome party, his unsuspecting victims weren't so happy with his behavior and reported him. Fido was reprieved, but his owner got a slap on the wrist.

The lesson learned was all pets, even friendly ones, need to be restrained when outside their residence.

Base officials warn that even though Fido may have understandable urges, pet owners are the ones who will be held responsible for their overactive four-legged friends, who are known to wander the streets unrestrained, water and fertilize their neighbors' garden, nip at children and adults, and a variety of other common nuisance complaints.

Even though their behavior often seems harmless — and well, we all know it's what dogs do — it's still contrary to base policy, which is in

effect to protect both humans and animals.

"It's a liability issue," said Lt. Col. Mary Elkins, 39th Services Squadron director of veterinary medicine. "And, it's (adherence to Incirlik Air Base Instruction 44-101, Control of Animals on Incirlik Air Base) a safety precaution for the pets as well.

"Almost all dog fractures and serious trauma are the result of (pets) running loose and being hit by a car, fighting or being attacked by another dog, or ingesting poison while roaming free," Colonel Elkins said.

Pet owners' should comply with all provisions in IABI 44-101 to include: register (within the first week of PCSing to Incirlik) and deregister pets (owners must obtain a health certificate good for 10 travel days to destination), implant microchip identification and pick up their animal's waste in public areas.

"Having a pet may increase your quality of life by providing you with companionship; however, dogs that are left to bark while outdoors, or run loose getting into trash and gardens, are decreasing your neighbors' quality of life," Colonel Elkins said.

To view Incirlik's pet policy, visit the Source at http://source/39CS_SCBA/SCBAB/44series/44101.pdf.

For more information about the policy, call



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joseph Thompson

Mindi Smith walks her dog, Spike, Wednesday through Arkadas Park.

Colonel Elkins at 6-3258.

To report a stray or neglected animal, or an animal that has become a nuisance, call the law enforcement desk at 6-3200.

Click It or Ticket program prevents injuries

By 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Culbertson
39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

A November weekend trip to Tarsus could have been fatal for Staff Sgt. Robert Fairchild, 39th Operations Squadron air traffic controller watch supervisor, and his wife, Melike.

At 9:30 p.m., Mrs. Fairchild was driving approximately 44 mph on the divided highway from Mersin to Tarsus. As she drove in the left-hand lane, she noticed a Turkish driver approaching on her right. Without looking, the Turkish driver began to pull into her lane.

Mrs. Fairchild swerved toward the median to avoid hitting the other driver, who also swerved away. She hit the median at a 45-degree angle, rolling the car twice. The car came to rest upside-down in opposing lanes of traffic.

Turkish authorities arriving on scene were amazed that the couple was relatively unscathed. She received six stitches in her arm, which was cut on window glass when she crawled out, and he received six stitches for a minor head wound. Their car was totaled. What saved the Fairchilds from more serious injuries? They were wearing their seatbelts.

The Fairchilds learned firsthand the importance of seatbelt wear. Base officials hope the Click It or Ticket program can help teach others.

Click It or Ticket is a law enforcement campaign that encourages people to buckle up or face a ticket. The program, explained Master Sgt. Paul Thompson, 39th Air Base Group ground safety manager, is a joint effort between the safety office and security forces.

"It's an awareness campaign with teeth," Sergeant Thompson said.

The safety office ensures support and advertising, while people from security forces set up random checkpoints to check that people are wearing their seatbelts.

"It's a safety issue," said Tech. Sgt. Joel Heidlage, 39th Security Forces Squadron desk sergeant. "We're not out to give the public a hard time; we're here to protect people by enforcing the law. We don't want people to get hurt."

Individuals that go through a checkpoint unbuckled are written a citation and have to report to their first sergeant within 24 hours.

Violators are also charged four points on their license. However, security forces people are working on a base publication that may impose harsher consequences as early as next month.

When the publication goes into effect, people caught not wearing their seatbelts will not only lose four points, but will have their license suspended for seven, 30 and 180 days, respectively for their first, second and third offenses.

The program has proven effective. Prior to its start Dec. 5, Incirlik's compliance rate was between 83 to 85 percent, according to the base safety office. Now, percentages have increased to 89 to 91 percent.

By holding Air Force people accountable, the Click It or Ticket program saves lives. In 2003, 65 Air Force servicemembers lost their lives as a direct result of not wearing their seatbelts. With everyone's cooperation, Air Force officials hope to prevent that from happening in 2004.

Students spruce up Army 'terminal'

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles
39th Air Base Group Public Affairs



Photos by Airman 1st Class Joseph Thompson

Sydnee Peebles, 7, applies tape to hang a poster she helped make for incoming U.S. soldiers from Iraq.

Incirlik elementary school students spruced up an otherwise dull hangar Jan. 14 with colorful posters and banners thanking U.S. soldiers for their sacrifices and welcoming them to the base as they transited through Incirlik from Iraq.

The soldiers, who have been traveling through Incirlik since Jan. 6, are using the hangar as a layover point as they travel home.

Every class pitched in to create the artwork, which ranged from a banner with handprints from the 3- and 4-year-olds to more elaborate displays featuring photos and intricate drawings from the older students.

"This is a wonderful way for teachers to explain current events and help bring them to life for students," said Ms. Debbie Folmer, elementary school principal. "It also teaches them about what soldiers do and, hopefully, instills a deeper understanding and appreciation of freedom."

The artwork idea isn't a new one at Incirlik. School children decorated Motel 39, temporary lodging erected for deployed troops here, in the months preceding Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Last spring, a parent asked me if the students could hang posters in Motel 39 and I thought it was a great idea," said 2nd Lt. Joy Tredway, 39th Services Squadron combat support flight commander. "It was very well received."

The lieutenant thought it would be a welcome addition to the hangar as well. She contacted Ms. Folmer, who instantly got the project under way.

"We value our partnership with the military community," Ms. Folmer said. "It works out well. We can help brighten the soldiers' day and the school can get involved with an important event."

The students simply seemed eager to help.

"We want to welcome the soldiers from Iraq," said Grace Katzenson, a third grader. "It was hard work to make the posters. I hope they like them."



Ladye Daniels, elementary school guidance counselor, helps Kent Ashurst, 9, and Sydnee Peebles, 7, hang a poster.



Lea Herdler, 11, tapes up posters to spruce up the temporary terminal for U.S. soldiers traveling home from Iraq.

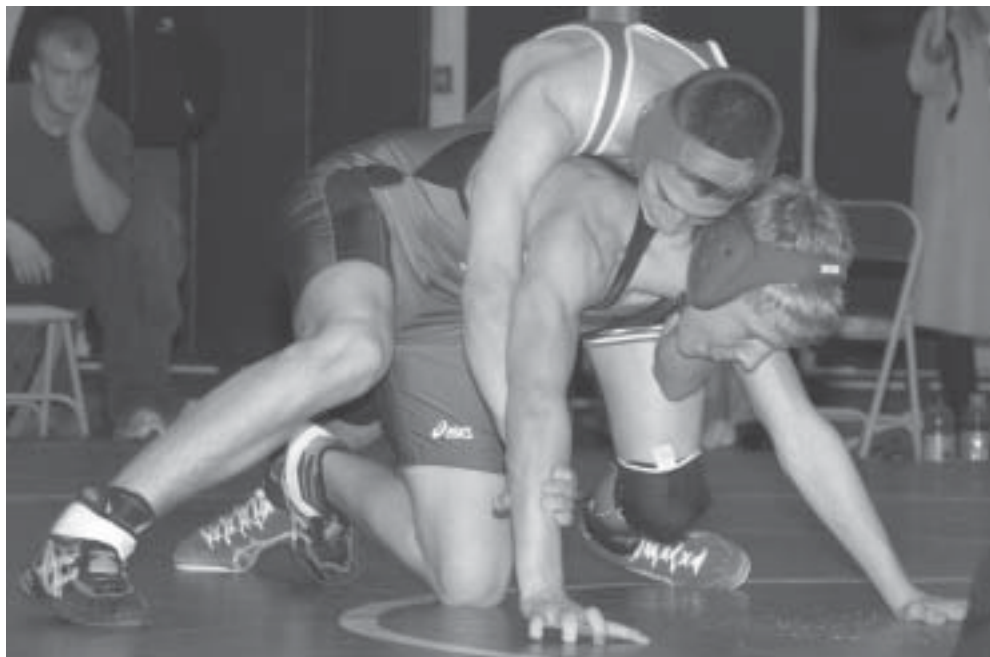


Photo by Airman 1st Class Dallas Edwards

Okan Kittelson, (top) an Ankara Trojan wrestler, makes a takedown attempt on Justin Williams, Incirlik Hodja wrestler. Justin won with a pin.

Hodjas crush Trojans in B-ball, wrestling match

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles
39th Air Base Group Public Affairs

Incirlik's high school sports teams crushed their rivals, the Ankara Trojans, during a clean sweep of a Friday and Saturday basketball and wrestling competition.

"It was a very dominating weekend for the sports teams," said John Drake, high school athletic director. "Our teams were well prepared."

In girls' basketball, the varsity team annihilated Ankara's team 39-9 Friday and 42-2 Saturday.

"We had to initiate the DODDS (Department of Defense Dependents Schools) mercy rule," Mr. Drake said. "If a team is leading by 40 points, then the game is called. We hit that five minutes into the third quarter."

Top scorers were Brandi Lewis with 19 points Friday and Liz Schaick with 11 points Saturday.

The boys basketball teams also trampled their opponents, leading 63-58 Friday and 57-51 Saturday. Top scorer for both games was Alquel Hodges with 16 points per game.

For the wrestling matches, T.J. Gill and Justin Williams both pinned their opponents.

The competition was Incirlik's home portion of a two-part series. The victors will later travel to Ankara for the second half.



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore

Incirlik Hodja Alex Hodges (right) attempts a lay up Saturday while an Ankara Trojan defender tries to stop him. The Hodjas defeated the Trojans 57-51.

The winners of the two-part series will travel to Italy in February for the Mediterranean championship, where cheerleaders will also perform in spirit and dance competitions.



Varsity soccer — Men's varsity soccer try-outs are Sunday at 4 p.m. at the high school soccer field. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jason Barton at 6-3326.

New circuit training class — The fitness center sponsors full-body circuit training classes Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the base gym. For more information, call Dustin Johnson, class instructor, at 6-3466 or 6-6788.

Racquetball league — The 2004 intramural racquetball league sponsors an initial coaches meeting Thursday at 2 p.m. in the consolidated club complex. People need to submit a letter of intent to the fitness center by close of business today. The season starts Feb. 9. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Tiffani Johnson, 39th Services Squadron sports director, at 6-1109.

Rider's club — Keep a fitness center record of the miles you ride on a bike or stationary bike and qualify to win the following prizes: 1,000 miles — T-shirt and 1,500 miles — windbreaker. Rider's have a year to complete the program. For more information, call 6-6086.

Bowling leagues — The Magic Carpet Bowling Center sponsors Intramural League bowling Mondays and Tuesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 6-6789.

Trotter's & strider's club — Keep a fitness center record of the miles walked or ran and qualify to win the following prizes: 500 miles — T-shirt and 1,000 miles — windbreaker. Participants have a year to complete the program. For more information, call 6-6086.

Taekwondo — The fitness center offers Taekwondo classes Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. Taekwondo is a traditional Korean Art emphasizing self-defense attack. For more information, call at 6-6086.

Exercises aren't fun, but necessary

By Staff Sgt. Nate Hier
3rd Wing Public Affairs

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (AFPN) — Exercises can undoubtedly be a colossal pain in the south end of a north-bound horse. When the kids are sick and can't go to the child development center, Mom's on days and Dad's on nights, there are times when it's hard to keep a positive outlook on why we have to train like we do.

Answering the phone to a recall at about 4 a.m. or so on a Wednesday, knowing immediately you won't get a day off for quite awhile, can make it easy to lose sight of the reason that call came.

That is until you take a few minutes to pick up a paper or watch the news.

Our comrades-in-arms in Iraq and Afghanistan aren't worried about working through weekends — they're worried about accomplishing the mission and coming home in one piece. They're not looking forward to a day off; they're worried about when and where the next mortar attack might come from. You could get all that just from watching the news. And that might make you think twice before complaining about playing your part in an operational readiness exercise at home.

Any time you spend away from family and friends to protect the freedoms we hold dear is an important and noble sacrifice; however, when I think about my last trip to the sandbox, it's about a million miles away from what our brothers are going through right now as we do our part in the exercise and then go home to sleep in our own beds.

The only bunker run I made in three months in Saudi lasted about 15 minutes — and it was just for an accountability exercise. In many places, they're making multiple, real-world bunker runs every week. There's a reason people are dying over there — it's no exercise, and

it isn't going to end in eight days.

I have a friend who would shoot me occasional e-mails to let me know how things were going on his recent deployment. My messages to him consisted of World Series updates and weekly accounts of NFL football. His replies were of very different subject matter. They were about mortar attacks; sleeping in bunkers; living in a helmet and flak vest; and most sadly, of people getting hurt and others dying.

Amazingly, I still had the audacity to get angry when my wife couldn't take off from work to stay home with our young son when his fever topped 103 degrees. What an atrocity. All it amounted to was me getting off the nightshift, high-fiving my wife and daughter as they left for work and school, then having the chance to spend some time with my boy while waiting on a sitter, so I could get some sleep before my next shift.

How many deployed soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines would complain about coming off a shift and being able to spend time with their children? More accurately, how many of them wouldn't give everything they have for the chance I was actually selfish enough to complain about?

Exercises aren't fun — they're not supposed to be. It's not a "company line" when we tell reporters we train year-round like this so we're ready for deployments at a moment's notice. It's not a line at all. It's who we are, it's what we volunteered to do, and it's the reason our nation enjoys more freedoms than any other country in the world.

As I walked upstairs to catch a couple hours of sleep, I could only laugh at myself for having been so foolish. It was quite a morning for the Hier clan. My son's fever had broken, one sister gave birth to a healthy 5-pound, 11-ounce girl and another got out of jail, hopefully for the last time. And I'd been right here at home to take every call.

ACTION LINE



Col. Bill MacLure
39th Air Base Group commander

The action line program provides an avenue for the Incirlik community to voice their concerns, complaints and opinions to Col. Bill MacLure, 39th Air Base Group commander.

The program should only be used after you've tried resolving the issue through your chain of command.

People can submit an action line by e-mailing action.line@incirlik.af.mil or calling the 39th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office at 6-6060.

Questions and responses may be printed in the *Tip of the Sword*.

We are an Air Force of three

By Lt. Col. Jack L. Briggs
612th Air Base Squadron commander

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, HONDURAS (AFPN) — We are airmen. We survey the entire battle space at once, attack in parallel and support in 3-D. We supply troops on the way in and we return the wounded home with honor. We are there before first contact with the enemy occurs. We are there to bring the last soldier home. We are an Air Force of three.

Integrity: We advance on the mission. Our airman's mission is air and space expertise and the visible "flag on the hill" we accelerate toward. Our word is our bond and others trust us to be there when we say we will, everyday. Integrity is the engine that drives our success. We will provide the intelligence, we will prepare the battlefield, we will deliver the goods.

Service: We focus on the welfare of others. We use our unique perspective as airmen to develop solutions to problems, achieving the desired effect while often

using equipment and training in new and innovative ways. We "check each other's six" on the ground and in the air to mitigate risk. Imagination is our only limit in meeting others' unmet needs. Flexibility is the key to our power.

Excellence: We are world-class stewards of our nation's resources. We recognize that our nation, family and friends provide us personnel, equipment and finances to focus on the welfare of others and advance on the mission. We live and breathe safety because every resource preserved is another available for the mission. We enable the synergistic advantage of joint operations by moving and employing resources when and where they are needed most. No other nation comes close to our air and space dominance.

In a modern world where everything is relative, these Air Force core values are three solid foundations to anchor the present and to plan our future. If you have ever wondered who we are: We are AIRMEN and WE are an Air Force of three.



ASK

MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri, Host Nation Adviser

Down the drain

Question: I always see a metal pipe in toilet bowls in Turkey. What is this, and how does it work?

Response: The pipe is used for cleansing yourself after you use the toilet. If you look carefully, you will see the tap to turn water on and off mounted closely to the bowl.

Turkish people traditionally cleanse themselves with water after they're finished using the toilet. Toilet paper is not widely used in Turkey.

That's why we have a metal pipe in western-style toilet bowls. You might not always find toilet paper in public toilets, but always water and soap. Therefore, I recommend you carry toilet paper or tissues when you are traveling in Turkey.

In large cities, western-style toilets are found almost everywhere, but throughout the countryside, at gas stations and roadside stops, oriental-style toilets are the norm.

An oriental-style toilet has two platforms on which to put your feet and squat, and a hole in the middle. You will also see a small tap on the wall and a bucket underneath.

There are always separate sections for men and women. Sometimes you have to pay to use public toilets, but the charge is minimal. Public toilets are always better at hotels and restaurants.

While old Turkish houses have only oriental-style toilets, newer ones have both styles. Most foreigners find it quite challenging to use oriental toilets. Young people generally prefer to use the western-style and older generations prefer to use the oriental-style toilets.



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore

The oriental-style toilet shown here is common throughout the Turkish countryside.



Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Miranda

Turkish doughnuts, called simit, are a popular breakfast choice in Turkey.

When you visit a Turkish house, you will notice a pair of plastic slippers by the entrance of the toilet. Those slippers are to be worn while using the toilet and the idea is that you will not wander around the house with the same shoes or slippers that you have worn in the bathroom.

Rolling in dough

Question: I've seen many street vendors, mostly children, in Adana and Incirlik village selling bread shaped like doughnuts. What is it and how is it made?

Response: Those vendors are common throughout Turkey. They are selling Turkish doughnuts called "simit."

Simit has been a popular part of Turkish culture for 600 years. People looking for something fast and inexpensive to eat will seek out a simit seller. Most people working in offices have a breakfast of simit and tea before starting work. Simit is also eaten while drinking salep, a beverage made of pulverized roots from certain Turkish orchids.

Simit was first baked for Janissaries (troops of the Ottoman Empire) in the 14th century, but the public liked it so much it became part of Turkish culture.

Simit is fairly easy to make. The dough is kneaded in machines, shaped like doughnuts, dipped in water sweetened with a little sugar and sprinkled with sesame seeds before baking. Although you might see different types of simit in different regions of Turkey, the basic ingredients are the same.

In Turkish

tuvalet - toilet
(to-vah-let)

tuvalet kagidi - toilet paper
(to-vah-let kah-e-de)

susam - sesame seed
(sue-some)

THE INCIRLIK GUIDE



Today

Cosmic Bowling — Magic Carpet Bowling has cosmic bowling from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. For price information, call 6-6789.

Catholic Home Rosary Group — The Rosary Group meets at 6:30 p.m., followed by a potluck. For location and further information, call coordinator Ellen Herdler at 6-5267.

Saturday

X-Box Tournament — The community center hosts an X-Box tournament at 12:30 p.m. Opponents compete in HALO. For more information, call 6-6966.

Catholic Parish Advisory Meeting — The Catholic Parish Advisory council meets at noon in the chapel conference room. For more information, call 6-3890.

Sunday

New Protestant Sunday School Class — The new Protestant Sunday School class is 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. at the youth center. The topic is finances from a biblical perspective. For more information, call course director Joseph McFadden at 6-6031.

Super Seafood Brunch — The club hosts a super seafood brunch from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.50 per person or \$14.95 with a half pound of shrimp. For more information, call 6-6101.

Catholic Mass — Chaplain (Capt.) Rick Harvey visits to speak on Christian unity at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 6-6441.

Monday

Immigration Day — U.S. citizens with foreign born family can turn in I-130 forms and payment to consulate staff. Consulate staff

is available by appointment only. For more information or to make an appointment, call the family support center at 6-6755.

CWOC — The Catholic Women of the Chapel meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the chapel conference room. For more information, call 6-6441.

PWOC — A Protestant Women of the Chapel fellowship dinner is held at 6:30 p.m. at Crossroads Cafe. For more information, call 6-6441.

Tuesday

H.S. parent's meeting — Incirlik High School hosts a parent's meeting at 6 p.m. in the high school media center. For more information, call council member John Drake at 6-6330.

Skills center class — The skills development center offers a soup mug class at 6 p.m. For more information, call 6-3858.

Wednesday

Castle Sightseeing Trip — Outdoor recreation sponsors a trip to Snake and Black castles. For more information, call 6-6044.

Bingo night — The club hosts a bingo night at 6:30 p.m. Cards go on sale in the ballroom at 4 p.m. For more information, call 6-8411.

Thursday

Breakfast at the club — The club hosts a member's appreciation breakfast from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. For more information, call 6-8411.

Ongoing

Belly Dancing classes — The community center offers belly dancing Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 until 7 p.m. Cost is \$35 for eight classes. For more information, call 6-6966.

Language classes — The community center offers both conversational English and conversational Turkish classes from 6 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$25 for 4 classes. For

more information, call 6-6966.

Upcoming

Pre-Teen Dance — The youth center sponsors a pre-teen dance Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. Ages 9 through 12 are welcome. Free for member and \$3 for non-members. For more information, call 6-6670.

Super Bowl party — The club sponsors a Super Bowl party Feb. 1 at 9 p.m. in the ballroom. Kick off is 1:17 a.m. Cost is \$5 for club members and \$7 for non-members. Price includes snacks, breakfast buffet and a commemorative coin. For more information, call 6-6101.

Scrapbooking beginners — The skills development center offers a beginning scrapbooking class Feb. 5 and 19 from 6 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$10 with instruction

or \$5 without instruction. For more information, call 6-3858.

Skills center classes — The skills development center offers a Valentine decorations class Feb. 5 and 10 at 8 p.m., grapevine Valentine's wreath class Feb. 5 and 12 from 5 to 8 p.m., a ceramic tea cup class Feb. 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. and a St. Patrick's Day decorations class Feb. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call 6-3858.

PlayStation 2 tourney — The community center hosts a PS2 tournament at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 6-6966.

Ceramic Madness potluck — The skills development center offers a ceramic madness class and potluck Feb. 13 from 6 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$5. For more information, call 6-3858.

COMBAT & SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS



Saturday

Project CHEER paintball tourney — Outdoor recreation offers a Project CHEER paintball tournament at 8 a.m. Cost is \$12. For more information, call 6-6044.

Sunday

Project CHEER silent auction — The club hosts a silent auction from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 6-6010.

Thursday

Project CHEER chess tourney — The community center offers a Project CHEER chess tournament from 4 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$2. Winner takes the cash. For more information, call 6-6966.

Upcoming

Customer College —

Incirlik's Customer College classes are Feb. 9 through 12 and Feb. 17 through 20. Classes are mandatory for people in customer service positions. For more information, call Rebecca Allen, 39th Services Squadron training specialist, at 6-8289.

Combat Touch — The National Prayer Luncheon is Feb. 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Topic is "Praying Through Adversity." For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Sutter at 6-6441.

Project CHEER wood stools — The skills development center sponsors a country Valentine wood stool project Feb. 7 from noon to 5 p.m. The instructional fee is waived and materials are \$20. For more information, call 6-3858.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Tech. Sgt. Daryle Moncrief, 39th Comptroller Flight Customer Service NCO in charge

Time on station: Four months

Hobbies: Cards and sports

Why did you join the Air Force? "To serve my country and for the benefits"

What do you like most about Incirlik? "The fact that I'm in a dorm and not a tent this time!"

How do you contribute to the air base group's mission? "We provide the customer service to take care of members in and out processing and day-to-day financial needs."

What's your favorite motto and why? "Be good at it! Need I say more?"

What Air Force core value best describes you? "Service before self."

Supervisor's quote: "As the NCOIC of customer service, Sergeant Moncrief has faced some of the most difficult challenges that the comptroller flight has encountered and has shined throughout. He is a true professional that provides top-notch customer service to the customer while leading and mentoring his subordinates," said 1st Lt. Antonio Nester, 39th Comptroller Flight financial services officer. "Sergeant Moncrief is an indispensable asset to the comptroller flight, Incirlik and the Air Force."

YOUR TURN



To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

What are you going to do with your 2003 tax return?

"I'm going to use the money for my daughter's education."

– **Lt. Col. Henry Steenken**, 728th Air Mobility Support Squadron



"I'm going to get my big screen off layaway."

– **Staff Sgt. Marcus Tindler**, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron



"If I get any money back, I'm going to put it toward a plane ticket for my wife and myself to vacation back in the states."

– **Kenneth Williams**, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron



"I'm going to save the money to buy a plane ticket back to the states for my husband, my daughter Sereida, 4, and myself."

– **Maria Ruiz**, Army and Air Force Exchange Service



"I'm going to put half of it in the bank, and I'm going to take my daughter Jennifer, 4, on vacation with the other half."

– **Tech. Sgt. Elaine Andruchowsky**, 39th Operations Squadron



CLASSIFIEDS

Lost: Female wedding ring last Wednesday. Ring is 18kt gold with two half-cut diamonds and a full diamond, with silver accents at the top. If found, please contact Christine at 6-5656 and leave a message.

For sale: Black entertainment center, purchased from BXtra for \$140, asking \$75. Two new Turkish carpets, 6-foot by 9-foot each, asking \$250 per carpet. Call Jeremy or Ashley at (h) 6-5718 or (w) 6-6757.

For sale: Four piece living room set, includes one full-size couch, one loveseat and two chairs, blue in color with chrome trim, almost new and in excellent condition, \$900 OBO; one glass-top coffee table, excellent condition, \$60. Call 6-2242.

For sale: Seven-piece living room set. Includes loveseat, full-size couch, two chairs, two end tables and a coffee table. Bought one year ago, smoke-free home, cream color, excellent condition. Great deal at \$700 OBO. Call 6-2015 or 0536-281-8784.

For sale: New secretary/laptop computer armoire, solid wood with oak stain, 90 inches tall and 26 inches wide. Beautiful piece of furniture.

A must see to appreciate. \$100 OBO. Call Lisa at 6-5033.

For sale: Large 8-foot by 5-foot handmade wool rug, fall colors patterned with thick stripes, Indian, \$90; unique stars standing lamp, two large hollow metal stars with 18 points, bulbs go inside, 69-inches tall, needs 35-inch wide space, \$50. Small one drawer pine bedside table, pine fronts and pressed board back, 17-inches wide and 22-inches tall, \$10; six-drawer dresser, \$15; will take \$20 for both. Computer desk, hutch style, minor dings, 41-inches long, 60-inches tall, \$20. Call Kelly or Dan at 6-5790 or 6-6156.

For sale: 1995 Ford Escort LX, two-door hatchback, 64K miles, automatic transmission, new tires and battery, \$3,000 OBO. Call Tech. Sgt. Sharon Koenigstein at 6-6956 (day) or 6-2074 (night).

For sale: Queen-sized sofa sleeper and loveseat, newly re-upholstered with golden fabric, lots of pillows, sofa sleeper has Serta mattress, rectangular coffee table and two end tables, wrought iron and wood. Great designer ensemble, \$600 takes all. Call Bob at 6-5380 or 6-6856 (work).

For sale: Cherry-stained dining room set, includes large rectangle double pedestal table with built-in leaf, eight chairs, buffet, a lighted hutch, very good condition, less than a year old, \$1,000 OBO for entire set. May be willing to sell separately. Call Bill or Meredith at 6-2217.

Project CHEER focuses on creating a positive atmosphere by offering unaccompanied airmen opportunities to participate in trips, tournaments, classes, giveaways and community service events.



It's Where You Belong

Cleaning house



Photos by Senior Airman James Seymore III

(Above) Members of the 39th Mission Support Squadron scour the streets for debris to show their support for Combat Proud Wednesday. Combat Proud focuses on improving the appearance of U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases to foster pride and productivity. During the base's first clean-up day, units were responsible for cleaning their work areas and building grounds in the morning. Afternoon efforts were devoted to the base's overall appearance. **(Right)** Staff Sgt. Joyce Shepard, 39th Mission Support Squadron reenlistment and extensions NCO, refuses to pass litter while participating in Combat Proud.



AT THE MOVIES

At the Oasis

Friday

Good Boy (PG) — Owen adopts a scruffy mutt he names Hubble. Both boy and dog get more than they bargained for when Owen wakes up one morning to discover he can understand every word Hubble says. Owen learns that dogs came to Earth thousands of years ago to colonize and dominate the planet. Hubble was sent by the powerful Greater Dane on a mission from the Dog Star Sirius to make sure dogs have fulfilled this destiny. Hubble soon discovers the awful truth about Earth dogs: "They're all pets!" Starring Molly Shannon and Liam Aiken. Showing at 7 p.m. (100 minutes)



Saturday

Runaway Jury (PG-13)

Miles, a divorce lawyer nearing a midlife crisis meets his match in his client's gold-digging wife, Marilyn. He's impressed by her similarly heartless ways of using marriage to fuel an expensive lifestyle, but he still defeats her in court. With Marilyn looking to get her revenge and Miles finding himself attracted to her, the two engage in a ruthless romantic pursuit to out-swindle each other. Starring George Clooney and Catherine Zeta-Jones. (100 minutes) Showing at 7 p.m.



Sunday

The Matrix Revolutions (R) — The rebels' long quest for freedom culminates in a final explosive battle. As the Machine Army wages devastation on Zion, its citizens amount an aggressive defense—but can they stave off



the relentless swarm of Sentinels long enough for Neo to harness the full extent of his powers and end the war? Starring Keanu Reeves and Carrie Ann Moss. Showing at 7 p.m. (111 minutes)

Thursday

Once Upon A Time In Mexico (PG-13)

Haunted and scarred by loss, El Mariachi has retreated into a life of isolation. He is forced out of hiding by Sands, a corrupt CIA agent. Sands recruits the reclusive hero to sabotage a plot by the evil cartel kingpin Barillo, who is planning to assassinate the president of Mexico. El Mariachi has his own reasons for returning — retribution and revenge. Starring Antonio Banderas and Salma Hayek. Showing at 7 p.m. (100 minutes)

At the M1

Finding Nemo (G) — 11:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:15 p.m. (100 minutes)

Looney Tunes the Movie (PG) — 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. (88 minutes)

Timeline (PG-13) — 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 9 p.m. (116 minutes)

Love Actually (R) — 10:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m., midnight (129 minutes)

The provision of movie information does not constitute an endorsement by the 39th Air Base Group, U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the U.S. Air Force.